

Book Review

A Handbook For School Nurses. By Kelly and Bradshaw. 109 p. New York: Macmillan Co. 1918. Price \$1.00.

This concise and splendidly written handbook is a valuable acquisition to the subject of health work in the school. The school nurse is now universally considered a most potent auxiliary to modern educational methods, and sine qua non to the successful administration of health work in the schools. Many of her activities, particularly those of a social worker, can not be properly recorded. She is one of the greatest ameliorating forces in the entire field of preventive medicine because she works among the children who are the potential citizens of tomorrow. T. D. M.

Surgical Clinics of Chicago. Volume 2, Number 6 (December, 1918). Octavo of 203 pages, 63 illustrations. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company. 1918. Published bi-monthly: Price per year, paper, \$10.00; cloth, \$14.00.

Contents: A. D. Bevan: Acute necrosis of the thyroid gland. Senile gangrene. Undescended testes. Chronic vicious cycle following gastroenterostomy. Prostatic Obstruction. Rupture of Urethra. T. J. Watkins. Perineorrhaphy—a simple and efficient operation. G. E. Shambaugh: Discussion of clinical problems relating to faucial tonsils. A. J. Ochsner: Compound comminuted fracture of both bones of leg. Plastic on face. H. L. Kretschmer: Hemetura and purpura. Carl Beck: Reconstruction of ears and nose. L. L. McArthur: Fibromyoma of stomach simulating stomach ulcer. C. M. McKenna: Ureteral stone—subsequent history. Varicocele operation. Stone in bladder complicated by a colon bacillus infection. M. A. Bernstein: Treatment of early and late infections of the hand and fingers, with special reference to tendon transplantations. Acute infection of little finger. Acute infection of index finger. Destruction of tendons as a result of an infection of the ring finger—tendon transplantation. Ankylosis of index finger.

Medical Clinics of North America. Volume 2, number 2 (September, 1918). Octavo of 330 pages. Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders Company. 1918. Published bi-monthly. Price per year, \$10.00.

W. C. Gorgas: Clinical research in United States army base hospital. W. W. Hamburger: A study of the epidemics of pneumococcus infections, and streptococcus infections, and measles, at Camp Zachary Taylor, 1917 to 1918. W. G. MacCallum: Pathology of the streptococcal pneumonias of the army camps. E. H. Goodman: Results of the examination of 23,943 drafted men by the cardiovascular board at Camp Jackson, S. C. Channing Frothingham: Function of a base hospital in a national army cantonment. W. W. Herrick: Meningococcic pericarditis. M. H. Kahn: Paroxysmal tachycardia in soldiers, clinical and polygraphic studies. E. P. Joslin: Postoperative pneumonia. Harlow Brooks: Neurocirculatory asthenia. Epidemic parotitis as a military disease. F. W. Peabody, J. T. Wearn, and E. H. Tompkins: Basal metabolism in cases of the "irritable heart of soldiers." Lawrence Litchfield: Notes on the diagnosis of acute infections in the thorax. J. L. Miller and F. B. Lusk: Empyema at Camp Dodge. J. C. Friedman: Subacute and chronic mediastinal complications of measles. Comments on the methods employed in preventing measles complications. R. L. Cecil: Pneumonia and empyema at Camp Upton, N. Y. C. L. Mix: Anthrax. D. J. Frick: Cardiovascular diseases at Camp Beauregard, La. J. M. W. Scott: Drug addiction. M. L. Lerner:

Marie's disease. Infantilism. Hyperkeratosis. Subclavian aneurysm. T. D. Coleman: Clinical significance of cardiac murmurs. C. S. Williamson: Prevention of communicable respiratory diseases.

The Wassermann Test. By Chas. F. Craig, Lt. Col. U. S. A. 239 pages. St. Louis: Mosby. 1918.

This book is to the reviewer a disappointment. This feeling is also voiced by the author in his preface, in that the duties and stress of war have prevented him from fulfilling a work that he had originally set out to do. Much of the subject matter and the writer's general attitude toward the Wassermann reaction is limited to and influenced by his own methods of technic. This calls for a fractionated anti-human hemolytic system, dried amboceptor, alcoholic extract and cholesterol fortified antigens and warm fixation. The test is not quantitative and the dose of complement used may be scant or excessive, in that it is not titrated in the presence of antigen and the human serum to be tested. Although it is without the scope of this review to analyze this method in detail, it must be emphasized that this method probably meets the requirements of institutions and military posts, where frequent repetitions can be made and where a better correlation of laboratory and clinical findings can be effected; but in general practice it will be found far from adequate.

The author's statement that cholesterinized antigen is entirely trustworthy and does not occasionally give spurious positive fixations, is not sustained by the observations of serologists in general. With its value as a control of treated cases we are thoroughly in accord. We find no mention made or attempted explanation of that group of serums reacting negatively with cholesterinated antigen but positive with plain antigen. The author also depreciates the use of an anti-sheep hemolytic system, unmindful of recent demonstration of the negligible element of native anti-sheep hemolysins.

Noguchi's older test, the Hecht-Weinberg and the Hecht-Gradwohl modifications are presented without comment. Of the more quantitative tests, the test of Kalmer is touched upon, no details of the Browning and McKenzie method are given, and no mention of the Thomas and Ivy method or Ottenberg's combination of the latter with Thomsen's method are made.

The author has apparently had no experience with cold fixation and is inclined to delay its inauguration until further demonstration. We feel that this simple step has done more than anything else to enhance the value of the reaction.

Fixation results, by the author's technic, in syphilitic cases in various stages, as well as treated cases, are given. These conform with generally reported statistics, but not as high as reported by serologists using cold fixation. No report on false positives is made.

Examination of the cerebrospinal fluid by Wassermann and colloidal gold test are included.

E. A. V.

Genito-urinary Diseases and Syphilis. By Henry H. Morton; 4th ed.; 330 illustrations; 36 plates; 807 pages; St. Louis: Mosby. 1918. Price \$7.00.

This interesting book presents with but few exceptions the most recent and generally accepted ideas upon genito-urinary diseases and syphilis. It contains about two hundred more pages than the former edition, as well as a much larger number of illustrations and colored plates. The latter are as good as those usually found in text-books.

In the opening chapter, under the subject of turbid urine, the author states that if in using the two glass test the second urine is found to be clear, the presence of posterior urethritis may be excluded. This is not in accord with the general